

POINT 3

THE TOC H MAGAZINE

APRIL 2000



TOC H

Bringing people together

SPECIAL CENTRAL COUNCIL New Director now in office

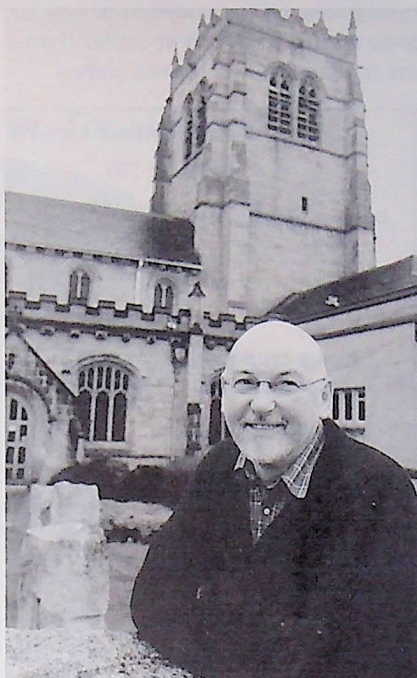
On Sat 11th March a special meeting of the Toc H Central Council was held at Alison House. The sole agenda item was to confirm the appointment, as Director, of the Rev Canon Geoffrey Smith. Central Councillor Margaret Davies sent us this brief report.

Arthur Heffernan, Chairman of the CEC, opened the meeting and Betty Cornick took Light. In proposing the motion, Anne Puddicombe, Vice-Chair of CEC, spoke of Geoff's experience of working with people of different faiths and mixed backgrounds, and of his ability to negotiate at all levels. She felt his skill in managing and creating enthusiasm within small teams would be invaluable to Toc H.

Jeremy Topham, Hon Treasurer, seconded the motion. He said that Geoff had shown confidence and enthusiasm for the Movement, and he looked forward to welcoming him to the CEC.

During the question period, Pat Turner welcomed Geoff. She said that she was certain Toc H needed a man or woman with Christian roots, and that her prayers had been 50% answered!

Betty Cornick was concerned that the post involved a great deal of travelling and some time away from home. In reply Geoff said that he and his wife Janet fully understood the situation. He explained that



Geoff at Bradford Cathedral. Photo by kind permission of Bradford and District Newspapers.

they hoped to live in Bradford, a short distance away from one of their daughters. He spoke, too, of his work in Bradford on a major Millennium project with Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Buddhists and Jews. At his final service in Bradford Cathedral he had chosen Toc H as the subject of his sermon.

In reply to a question about the lack of publicity for Toc H today, he felt we should not be afraid of publicity for the things which we do. He deplored the age-old phrase 'Dim as a Toc H Lamp'. It was suggested that 'Bright as a Toc H Lamp' was more appropriate.

The vote was unanimous. Afterwards Geoff spoke to Council. (And his reply

is printed on page 4 of this issue. - ED).

Later we enjoyed the sunshine in the garden, and there was ample opportunity to talk with Geoff and Janet. We welcome you warmly, Geoff, and assure you of our support in leading Toc H forward to a new and revitalised future.

Toc H

Toc H is about people. Founded in 1915, Toc H works to break down barriers between people by challenging their prejudices about others and the divisions which exist in society. Its work is based on Christian principles, and people of all faiths, and of none, are welcomed.

Toc H works with people from all walks of life, tackling social problems, such as loneliness and deprivation, through an approach which emphasises self-help, and encourages people to accept responsibility for themselves and their local community.

Toc H uses the model of the compass to offer four personal challenges which are the inspiration for its members.

These 'Four Points of the Compass' are set out on page 2.

Our Vision is of a Movement
'Building better communities by reaching out to all in friendship and service, confronting prejudice, and practising Christian values'.

Toc H is a registered charity No 211042.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Toc H - 'A vehicle for transforming the world'.

Report on Regional Officers Conference.

Little Hachett.

From Winsford to Poperinge.

Reader Survey results.

CONGRATULATIONS to Roger Starling, of Solihull (M) Branch, who was awarded the M.B.E. in the New Years Honours list for long service with the D.H.S.S. and his work for charity. Roger was born blind but, after many operations, now has 60% sight in one eye. He supports a wide number of charities, and has been a devoted member of Toc H for 37 years, including a spell as Branch Treasurer.

Toc H Week 2000 and Toc H's 85th Birthday.

2000 is the 85th birthday of Toc H. The CEC has been considering how we should celebrate this. The CEC feels that it should be done at local level, in as many places as possible, and that celebrations should be timed (if possible) for the week 9th to 16th September, which is already booked as Toc H Week 2000.

So, please highlight that week in your calendar. Then dream up something that will be a fitting celebration of a big birthday, and which will also tell the outside world that we are 85 years young! And then write to tell Point 3 all about your plans.

The Four Points of the Compass are:

1. Friendship - 'To Love Widely' - to welcome all in friendship,
2. Service - 'To Build Bravely' - to give personal service.
3. Fairmindedness - 'To Think Fairly' - to listen always to the views of others and to find one's own convictions.
4. The Kingdom of God - 'To Witness Humbly' - to acknowledge the spiritual nature of man, to practice the Christian way of life, and to help the truth to prevail.

Point 3 is the magazine of Toc H. It takes its name from the 3rd Point of the Toc H Compass, 'Fairmindedness'. It seeks to inform, to encourage and to stimulate. Editor: John Mitchell c/o Toc H Central Services, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT Tel: 01296 623911. Fax: 01296 696137 E-mail: Info@toch.org.uk

Letters Editor: Ken Prideaux-Brune.

Next copy deadline: 19th May 2000.

A full copy of the current editorial policy is available on request from the Editor.

The opinions expressed are those of the individual concerned and not necessarily the views of the Editor or of Toc H.

While Point 3 is made available to all members free of charge, voluntary contributions are welcome.

The Editors reserve the right to cut or précis articles and letters submitted unless the writer specifically stipulates otherwise.

Printed on chlorine-free, environmentally friendly paper.

YOUR VIEWS

A REPORT ON THE POINT 3 READER SURVEY

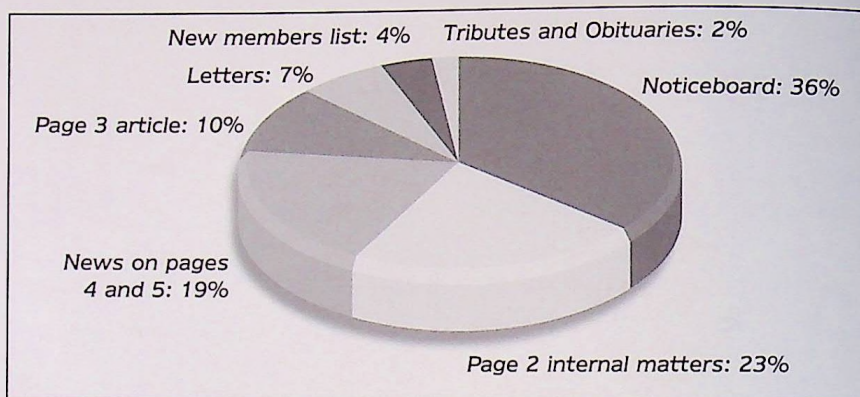
In February Point 3 we asked a series of questions about the magazine. We are grateful to the 61 readers who took the trouble to put pen to paper to respond. While this number is not big enough to be statistically significant, it does give a flavour of people's views.

Not surprisingly all but two of those who responded said they read 'All' of each issue and the other two read 'More than half'.

In response to the question of which page people turn to first (other than the front page) the scores were:-

Few readers felt we should drop anything, although one felt we devoted too much space to Tributes, and another didn't like 'preaching-type articles'!

There was greater consensus about what readers wished us to increase. A number wanted a bigger 'In Brief' item, and others wished for more branch news. (We have to mention, gently, that that does rather depend on branches sending it in - and please make sure it IS news!). A number of people wanted more members letters (and that, too, depends on you!). A few still regretted the reduction in the number



The third question was whether readers felt anything was missing. This generated a wide variety of thoughts - including colour, advertising, cartoons.. and 'a thorough proof read'! Three suggestions occurred more than once. One was for prayers to be included (perhaps a 'prayer for the month'). One was a request for topical articles for branch discussion. The third was a request for more reports from the CEC, and details of what the CEC are thinking about and discussing.

of pages, and wanted to go back to a bigger magazine which, as one said, 'would give more scope to the new Director'. Another wanted a regular 'Director's slot'. There were requests for more articles or items with a spiritual dimension, and a number of others asked for more articles of a thought-provoking nature.

Finally, 94% of those who responded said they felt the print size was 'about right' - while 6% felt it was a bit too small.

Thanks to all of you who wrote in.

Welcome to our New Members

Barbie Davies, Anthony McMullen - S.E.Region
Hester Akerman, Ivy Pick,
Maureen Scribbins - Cheltenham
William Dixon - Long Eaton
Niel Birchwood-Harper - Looe

George Hopkinson, Jean Hopkinson - Orston
Phyllis Leppard - Parkhurst
Roger Parmentier - Poperinge
Margaret Bailey - Ripon
Janet Sargent - Rushden

Guest Members

Matthew James, Duncan Oakley,
Geoffrey Riddle - NE Region
C Brady, Kelly Brady, Nellie Elliott,
Michael Jordan, Patricia Miller,
James Osler, Nina Raymont,
Tony Tytherleigh - SE Region
Florence Hundleby - NW/NW Region

Junior Members

Victoria Buckley, David Sefton-Rawson - Halton
Laurianne Collins, Penny Collins - Lea Valley
Claire Gent - Long Eaton
Jennifer Byrne, Gavin Dineley - Vale Royal
Laura Simms - Wellingborough

LITTLE HATCHETT

An odd coincidence led to an interesting occasion when Toc H members visited Little Hatchett, Tubby Clayton's family home, last summer.

When I was reading a history of Tubby Clayton and Toc H, and came across the name of his home - Little Hatchett - I realised I had seen it before when an old friend had rented it many years ago. With some feeling that we might be intruding, my husband and I knocked at the door to ask if we might take a photograph of the house, as part of our interest and involvement as new members of Toc H.

As a result Mrs Penny Murray invited us to bring members of the Bournemouth (Iford) Branch to have tea and look around the house and delightful gardens, originally landscaped by Tubby Clayton's father.

Mrs Murray and her husband Duncan (an old school friend of our late Director, Mike Lyddiard) were extremely generous in sharing their beautiful and architecturally original bungalow and gardens, built after the style of Lutyens but with typical 'antipodean makeshift'. Physically very little about the house has changed and, though there are no ghosts, there is a spirit of love and care that must have been in the house since it was first built.

Our group was also delighted to meet Byard McHugh, Tubby's great-nephew, who shared with us his childhood memories of his great-uncle. Byard's own parents celebrated their wedding at Little Hatchett.

On the dining room table Mrs Murray had on display some fascinating memorabilia including deeds, family photographs and copies of paintings of Little Hatchett. She also had a pewter tray which she believes to be from the period after the death of Tubby's parents, when the house was used as a guesthouse for Toc H members.



Byard McHugh introduces members to Hut No. 16

After the First World War, when Talbot House was returned to its owner, Tubby was given the use of three army huts. We saw one of these (Hut No 16) which he had shipped back and erected in the garden of Little Hatchett. Mrs Murray told us that her husband and Mike Lyddiard had discussed returning the hut to Poperinge. (The hut is now in Poperinge, awaiting re-erection in the Concert Hall - Ed).

The entire group felt it had been a great privilege to visit Little Hatchett. As long term members of Toc H it had brought them closer to the origins and to the founder. We are deeply indebted to the Murray's for letting us share some of the history of their lovingly cared for home.

Eileen Wharam.

QM100 - 19th July 2000

Our much loved Patron, H.M. the Queen Mother, will be 100 this summer. To mark that milestone, there is to be an event in Horse Guards Parade in July to salute her. Many organisations and charities will take part.

We shall be among them - and would like to hear from any member or volunteer who would like to take part. We shall have a 'marching group' in the parade to represent Toc H World-wide, and we are also helping 'behind the scenes' with stewarding. Volunteers for either will be needed from the morning (for rehearsals) through to the end, about 7-30. The parade itself will be in the early evening and will last about 50 minutes.

If you want to help, (and don't mind a LONG day in London) please write to the Editor at once. We may also be allocated some spectator seats for the parade, so if you would like to have one of these, please also write to the Editor to say so.



H.M. The Queen Mother at the opening of Prideaux House in 1962.
On the left of the picture is George Davis, then Chairman of the CEC, and on the right, Tubby.

REGIONAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE

This annual conference took place this year on 10-12th March - at Alison House. Jean Whiteman, S.E. Regional Chairman, reports.

Does the sun shine on the righteous? Well, the sun shone on the Regional Officers Conference all weekend. I wonder what that means?

Alison House welcomed representatives from all eight Regions and most, including the S. East, had their chairman, secretary and treasurer present. There was an air of anticipation in the air as we sat around before Friday evening dinner, and then 'he' arrived - our new director, Geoffrey Smith. It wasn't long before we were chatting to him and his wife Janet. It was a time of questions, quiet chat and a chance to adjust to a new leader.

The Conference is a time for meeting with old friends, but mainly it is a time for sharing good ideas and good practice, as well as sharing problems. The discussions were good and the results very positive. In all I was very pleased that the S.East Region seemed to be heading in the right direction, but we still have many mountains to climb.

One debate was centred round the need for Chaplains in

Toc H. I know members will be relieved to hear that we told the CEC, in no uncertain terms, that we could not manage without Chaplains. We all know we are short of money and that having paid Chaplaincy staff is a dream, but it was agreed that voluntary Regional Chaplains will be our lifeline for keeping the 4th Point of the Compass and our Christian principles at the heart of our movement.

The other main item of the weekend was, of course, the Special Meeting of Central Council, at which Geoff was confirmed in office. (Reported on the front page of this issue - Ed).

I went to this year's Conference still thinking that we had made the wrong decision last year, and that we really should have considered closure. I came away uplifted by the discussions I had had, mainly outside the formal meetings, and very determined to make a special effort to support our new director in taking Toc H forward into this new century.

As we left Alison House the gardens were full of spring flowers, there were baby lambs skipping in the fields at the back of the house, and we were all looking to the new spring, the new century, and the new Toc H.

'A VEHICLE FOR TRANSFORMING THE WORLD'

The Director's speech of acceptance to the Special Meeting of the Central Council at Alison House on March 11th.

I am delighted, and not a little relieved, to accept your invitation to take up the Directorship of Toc H, which has been made vacant by the untimely death of Mike Lyddiard.

I realise that I take up my post at a time of flux in the life of this wonderful Movement, but that makes the challenge all the more irresistible.

I have received many letters of support and encouragement from Toc H members and from staff. There is recognition of the need for change and it will be necessary to modernise and reform structures and mechanisms that no longer serve the Movement or the society it seeks to transform.

I have already had the privilege of coming to know something of the spirit of Toc H by volunteering for a Toc H Project, by meeting members of the CEC, and especially through meeting the Development staff at a 24-hour workshop last weekend, and Regional Officers this weekend.

As a Movement you are tremendously well served by a dedicated staff team who are committed to realising the principles of Toc H in the projects that they serve and manage.

Toc H will continue to be a vehicle for transforming the world and it will continue to challenge the churches and the faith communities by its commitment to live out the Four Points of the Compass - to Love Widely, to Build Bravely, to Think Fairly, and to Witness Humbly - as it

reaches out to all in friendship and service, confronting prejudice and practising reconciliation.

Toc H challenges those to whom much has been given by its invitation to serve others. Toc H encourages those caught up in struggle and conflict by seeking to share their burdens. I consider it a privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility of working alongside you to translate the vision of the past in today's society.

Teddies for Brazil

Doreen Denny, of Bitterne Ladies Branch, visited Brazil last summer. Taking time off from a visit to her son, she delivered a consignment of knitted Teddies, produced by Guildford Surrey Branch of Teddies for Tragedies, of



which she is a member too. She visited a children's home (see picture - Doreen on the left) which cares for poor children from many parts of the country.

Often mothers stay too - one mother of 11 from the Amazon had five of her children there, four of them being assessed for suitability for a bone marrow transplant for a sibling with leukaemia. Doreen reports that 'The Teddies were well received - and some of the Mums asked for one too!'

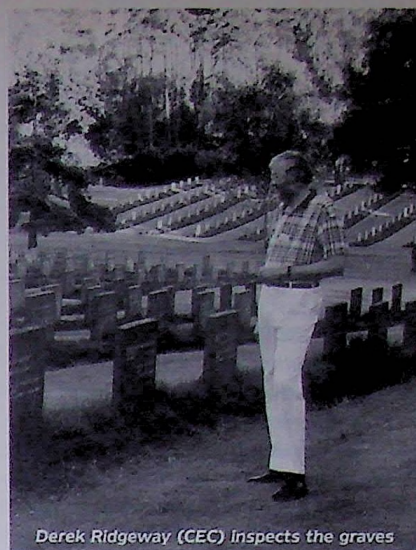
Walsall Branch visit a German War Cemetery

Few people realise that there are German War Graves in the heart of England. This cemetery, in the rolling heathland of Cannock Chase, is the final resting place of almost 5,000 German combatants, of both World Wars, who died in this country. Walsall Branch, with the co-operation of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, organised a visit there last summer.

The party included Toc H members

and other friends. After an hour spent quietly examining the graves, the group assembled and Mike Bullock gave a short address of welcome and details about Toc H. This was followed by a short act of reconciliation and the ceremony of Light. The Branch Padre, Don Felix, led closing prayers.

The event received good publicity in the local press and Radio WM. The Branch felt it was a very worthwhile evening.



Derek Ridgeway (CEC) Inspects the graves

From Winsford to Poperinge

A group of women from the 'Families under Pressure' scheme in Winsford, together with Toc H members from Belgium, are to join in a 16km commemorative walk in Belgium this August. Thousands will walk to remember those who fell in two World Wars.

The women will carry with them messages of tribute from those who cannot go. Karen Baker says 'This is a unique opportunity for us, and we are offering people who cannot take part the chance to send with us any personal message or letter. These will be placed in

special memorial books, which will then be placed at the famous Menin Gate Memorial'. Another of the team, Sheryl Hughes, comments 'This helps us show our gratitude for the benefits we now enjoy because of the sacrifices made by others'.

IN BRIEF • IN BRIEF • IN BRIEF

Mary Leech writes to tell us that **Newport Toc H** arranged a Millennium party (see picture) for 60 people who regularly attend the Friday Coffee Morning. Tea and entertainment were provided by members, and everyone joined in by coming dressed in blue and silver - the Millennium theme. It was much enjoyed by all. 'The Coffee Morning has brought together many people and opened up many friendships', she says. 'There is a community spirit where people show concern for each other, and this reflects in my mind the true meaning of Toc H'.

Burraton Branch celebrated 50 years of life in September. Guests at a big gathering included the Mayor of Saltash and her consort, members of all branches in the district, district members, widows of elder brethren, regular speakers at meetings, two church ministers associated with Toc H and many other friends. Special guests were Phyllis Wright (Regional Chairman), Mary Edwards, Daphne Dawes, and the speaker, John Mitchell. Members presented highlights of life of the branch and the Burraton Male Voice Choir gave a memorable performance.

Midlands for over 30 years. He gave a most enlightening talk about his Toc H experiences and faith in the future of our Movement. Refreshments, including a special cake symbolising the Toc H Lamp, were enjoyed afterwards, and this memorable day ended with Homegoing Prayers.

Another 50th birthday was celebrated in Solihull (reports Norah Warner) when the **Solihull Women's Branch** held a Service of Rededication in St Helen's Church. Members and friends from Kings Norton, Birmingham and Solihull Men's Branch, together with several former members, came to support the occasion. The Guest Speaker was George Lee who had been Area Secretary in the West



Youngsters enjoying an adventure on the River Wye during the 'Wye Challenge' project last summer. This very successful project is to be repeated this year during the week 29th July to 5th August. Is there anyone out there who fancies getting wet and muddy?

Give thanks for Toc H

As I collected up all my Christmas cards this year it came to me that, apart from family, over 90 per cent had a Toc H connection. It made me appreciate just how much friendship I have received from Toc H over the years. From moments of greatest joy through the depths of despair, we have laughed together, cried together, mourned together, loved together. I am sure many in Toc H have shared similar bonds of friendship – and, oh, how we sometimes take it for granted.

I am saddened when members complain that things 'are not what they used to be'. If you only count up the people you have met, and the friends you have made, through Toc H, surely that alone is something to celebrate?

2000 is the International Year of Thanksgiving and we should take this opportunity to give thanks for Toc H, especially for the friendships so many share, both here and abroad. Of course, we are all getting older and things change but we can still give thanks and pray that future generations will be able to enjoy the same friendship that we have been blessed with.

A practical way of giving thanks – which we can ALL do – is to make a donation for each year of membership, or better still each friend in Toc H. Any deficit in our funding would soon disappear!

Linda May
Oldham

Shop Income

Jack Turner (Letters February 00) points out that the shop income is not shown separately in the accounts. Does he suggest that it is shown in four separate lines, one for each shop, or that we lump the two centrally run shop losses in with the profit from the two volunteer-run shops?

It is impossible for the accounts to list individually all the activities that raise money. If they were to be listed the accounts would take up a considerable number of pages. Many sections of Toc H raise considerable sums for central use and people should accept that the good work that they do cannot be reflected in every internal piece of

paper, let alone the accounts which are required by law.

I write this as chairman of the Weirside committee, which most people will not know has been contributing about £6,000 per annum to Toc H centrally for a considerable number of years. This has never been shown as a separate item, nor do I think it should be. It is, after all, money raised by members and should be so shown in the accounts.

Derek Ridgway
Chairman, Toc H Weirside Committee

Is there a cartoonist out there?

For many years I have been writing nonsense and serious poetry and have been told by several people around me that I should try getting a book of poetry published. I feel that a publisher would be more interested if there could be an illustration to go with each poem. I would like to make contact with someone who would like to participate in this with me, the royalties being shared between us. I am hopeful that there may be a reader of Point 3 who would like to have a go.

My share would be used to expand the distribution list for the Christmas Greetings tape, which I produce annually and which provides a three hour entertainment for elderly or handicapped people. In recent years this has been extended to blind people. It is my desire to make the tapes available to about 1,000 people; at the moment the figure stands at about 550.

H Sydney Cox
3 General Higgins House
Highbridge, Somerset, TA9 3BN

Toc H Online

Recently I had the opportunity of viewing the Toc H web site and I was suitably impressed. The site is well-designed, with a welcoming Home Page, Information, Activities, Can I Help?, Events, Projects, Noticeboard, Feedback and Message Book.

We should wish it well and talk about it, encourage friends who have access to show us, if we don't have access ourselves, or visit a library to see if they will allow access.

Nevil Peatfield
Birmingham

BOOK REVIEW:

by M. Paul Rogoff.



'No future without forgiveness'

by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

This is a new book from South Africa. It is Archbishop Desmond Tutu's personal memoir of chairing South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission - which is perceived as being as much a spiritual as a judicial undertaking in conflict resolution.

The Commission was deeply rooted in the conviction that our relationship to others is central to our existence as human beings. The author shows that reconciliation after conflict is the only way forward, whether at personal or political levels. He offers guidelines on how we might make this principle work in a better, more humane future. The book is also deeply self-revealing.

The book is pitched for the widest possible readership. I anticipate a paperback edition shortly. It is essential reading for all those who take the 'Four Points of the Compass' responsibly. I commend it unreservedly to all, especially those who are on the sharp end of arbitration, judicial or penal processes.

Published by Rider Books:
ISBN 0 7126 70130 £14.99.

THINKING OF THE ETERNAL REALITIES - No3

Padre Douglas Bridge-Collins, of Orston Branch, has sent us a number of short reflections on the Eternal realities, with the focus on Meditation. This is the third.

One simple way of meditating involves the Jesus prayer. In this you repeat quietly within your own mind the name of Jesus. If it helps you it may be possible to reflect on him in one of the gospel stories that has particular appeal for you. As you do so you rest quietly in the holy name, Jesus. If you are especially concerned about someone else for whom you wish to pray you can picture them as you repeat Jesus' name. Then ask for help to carry out some piece of service during the coming hours or in the following day, perhaps the task of being pleasant to the persons you will encounter. If time permits continue the devotion. "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, I shall try to serve you. Please help me".

TRIBUTES

MURIEL GORTON, who died in February aged 98, first met Toc H when her husband was a curate to Tubby at All Hallows. After his death she joined the staff of the Women's Association for whom she worked for ten years, mainly in East Anglia. Jean Perry, a colleague at the time, remembers her as some-one 'very special'. She was 'level headed, very good with people and had a wonderful sense of humour'.

LYNN GOLDSWORTHY, who died suddenly in February aged 44, was a key member of the volunteer 'scene' in London in the '70s. As a leader, and member of the planning committee, she helped create numerous projects, as well as a new group at the Toc H centre at Ilford. She also did much work with army children in Germany, as volunteer and organiser. During this she met her husband-to-be, Brian, who was a Development Officer in Germany. John Burgess remembers her as being 'always highly enthusiastic, with a great sense of fun, outrageous dress sense, and a simple determination to get things done right and well. We give thanks for her life in Toc H'.

EILEEN LAWRENCE was a member of Rushden (Oakley) Branch for 40 years, holding at times the offices of Secretary and Jobbie. Illness prevented her from attending for the last few years, but she maintained interest in Toc H. Eileen thought deeply about all topics and issues we discussed and her quietly spoken comments were of great value to the branch. **JP**

ELIZABETH STOTT, who died in February at the age of 102, was a member of Spotland Branch from 1941 to 2000! In her early days she was always ready to give service and help, and even after she moved into a nursing home three years ago (where we met fortnightly) she always kept a keen interest in Toc H and was ready to contribute

to efforts and subscriptions. She was a very loyal member who will be sadly missed by all Rochdale members and branches. **JH**

FREDA RUST, who died in January, had been a member of Hythe Branch for some 20 years. She was a lively, energetic person with a good head for figures. She became the branch treasurer and was, together with Arthur Rust, the driving force behind raising money for the present branch minibus. She also served as Central Councillor and at District level. In addition to Toc H she helped with other charities, and was a 'Meals on Wheels' lady for a number of years.

We send our sympathy to Toc H India on the death of Executive Secretary M.X. Joseph. He served Toc H India devotedly for many years. Commissioner K. Varghese describes him as 'the backbone of Toc H in Kerala' and says his death is an irreparable loss.

REG NORMANDALE, who died in January, joined Wellingborough Branch in 1988 when it became involved with the Talking Newspaper for the Blind and he was an early helper with that. He became a very active member, using his artistic talents in many ways at Coffee mornings and other events, and his sense of humour and funny stories always livened up our meetings. He will be sorely missed by us all, but not forgotten. **BE**

JAMES (JIM) SLATTER, who died in February after a long illness borne with fortitude, joined Gloucester Branch in 1995 after 12 years involvement. He readily accepted, and even generated, challenges to help others, and then he 'invited' us to join him in meeting them! Jim led by example and was a much loved member. He will be sorely missed. **DN**

MICHAEL CHENEY, who died in January aged 75, joined Toc H in Hong Kong in 1954 while working there, and on his retirement worked in the Toc H Services Clubs in Germany. He was a very caring man, and a practising Christian who truly lived out the Four Points of the Compass. **LHK**

The mention of **HENRY HODGE** in the February Obituaries will bring to those who knew him memories of a dedicated life-long member, who was much involved in the old Manchester Area Executive during its most effective years. 'Chum', as he was known, held many offices, and worked energetically for the Rhyl Children's Camp and the provision of the Mark 4 extension, including the Hospital Broadcast Studio. Many happy memories will perhaps temper the sadness of his passing. **CC**

THOMAS CHRISTOPHER (CHRIS) CLARK, who died in December was an active member of New Addington Branch until it closed in 1996. He was a devout Christian, giving much of his time and energy to the community, particularly the Church, Scouts, Guides and the Residents' Association. He certainly paid his rent for his time on earth. **DP**

ELISABETH POLLARD, who died in December, was an active member of Southport Branch for over 30 years, being Chairman and Secretary at times. Despite increasing immobility, and often in pain, she rarely missed meetings, and was always cheerful and willing to participate in activities. Though recently confined to a wheelchair, she continued to knit knee rugs and bedsocks for the elderly and those with disabilities. She was well known throughout the Region and also at Central Council, having attended as a Guest for the last four years. Her courage in so much adversity in her life is an inspiration to all who knew her. **SR**

OBITUARIES

In December

Thomas Clark	Springfields
Eileen Lawrence	Rushden
Helen Solly	Margate
Brenda Van Ruiten	SW Region

In January

Michael Cheney	ME Region
Viola Coombes	Bargoed
Neilina Forbes	Llandrindod Wells
Lynn Goldsworthy	SE Herts
Florence Hext	South Devon
Michael Lewin	Selkirk
Margaret McPherson	Scottish Region

Reginald Normandale	S Region
James Roscoe	Southport
Allan Sinnicks	Haywain District

In February

Rachel Barry	SE Region
'Grace' Bean	SE Region
Charles Brown	Glamorgan
Nellie Brownlee	NE Region
Violet Coleman	Mid Norfolk
Ronald Giles	Melton Mowbray
Muriel Gorton	Norwich
George Herring	Rushden
James Slatter	Gloucester

Amy Smith	South Devon
Elizabeth Stott	NE Region

In March

Enid Anderson	Weymouth
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No date recorded

Alexander Clark	SE Region
John Dixon	Ouse and Hull
George Green	Orston
Sidney Russell	Southampton
Doris White	Plympton
Charles Wilford	Rushden

NOTICE BOARD

To Mark this Millennium year, Follow

'THE COURSE OF TIME'

in LONDON on 2nd SEPTEMBER.

(and raise some money for Toc H)

Come and join Toc H members and volunteers from around the country for 'The Course of Time' fund-raising event. Get yourself sponsored (for central funds or local funds, or for a special project) to visit 20 sites in central London - each one dating from a different century in the last two millennia.



Starting and finishing at the Museum of London (who are helping us to promote this venture) 'walk through time' - in your own time! Visit (among other places) the site of the 1st Century Roman Fort, the (3rd Century) Temple of Mithras, All Hallows (7th Century), Covent Garden (the market began in the 9th Century), the (13th Century) Eleanor Cross at Charing Cross, and so on.

All sites are near tube stations or bus routes, so no-one is expected to walk it all. All you will need to spend is the modest price of a one-day Travelcard for central London.

Come on your own, in a group, or with your family.

Basic accommodation available on the nights before and after at the Ensign Youth Club - the base of our East London 'Families under pressure' scheme. There will also be a 'social' there on the Saturday evening.

The event is warmly open to people who want to take part to raise money for other charities too, so please spread the word.

Full Details available from the Editor - write to him via Central Services.

LEGAL LIABILITY FOR EVENTS

Please Note: When any Event is being organised by Toc H, and includes an activity that involves a higher than normal risk to participants, our Insurers MUST be informed, via Sally Courtney at Central Services. This includes not just the obvious activities like parachuting, buny jumping etc, but also less obvious activities such as those on water, or those involving climbing, bouncy castles etc.

Central Services needs to be told the date and location of the Event, numbers participating and their relationship to Toc H (guests, volunteers), safety procedures and relevant experience of those running it, together with details of any contracts signed with (for example) local authorities. If in doubt, contact Central Services. This procedure does not normally lead to any more insurance costs, but does safeguard our cover.

HELP TOC H ON-LINE

If you use the Internet, you can help Toc H for free. 4u2give is an Internet service provider which will make donations to a charity of your choice if you go on-line with them. Already Toc H is receiving donations from it because two users have nominated Toc H. If you are thinking of going on-line, why not look into what 4u2give offers.

East Anglia Rally

All welcome at the East Anglia Rally on Sat 24th June, 10-30 to 3-30

Venue: St Mary's R.C.Hall, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.

Main Speaker - The Rev Geoffrey Smith

Toc H Displays, Bookstall and Events News update.

Contact: Grace Mosedale, 41 Brotherton Avenue, Trimley St. Mary, Felixstowe, Suffolk. IP 11 0YL
tel: 01394 - 284512.

Come to a Gathering

of the East Midlands District Team Area at Orston, Notts, on Sat 23rd September (3pm - 7pm).

Speaker: The Rev Canon Geoffrey Smith

Names to Sylvia Wakefield - 01949 850 699 by 31/8.

PENNIES FOR PEOPLE

Foreign and English Coin Collection for Toc H.

We are now able to change ALL TYPES of FOREIGN COINS and OLD ENGLISH CURRENCY for Toc H Development. Two major companies have agreed to help us in this, free of charge, as part of their charity support programmes.

To take advantage of this opportunity, the collection of the coins has to be centralised. Tony Cock (Regional Secretary - S.E.Region) has agreed to collect and store them until we have enough to exchange.

Please start collecting coins - and when you have some, get them to Tony - NOT BY POST! - but to Central Councillors or members of staff, or to Central Services, who can then pass them on.

This really is 'money for nothing!' - just like the Stamp appeal (which Tony also runs). Why not?

Family Holiday 2000, at Alison House

Jack and Pat Turner offer a warm invitation to join this 'Family Holiday' from Sunday 9th to Saturday 15th July, at a cost of £200 (not including transport). A chance to make friends, to enjoy exploring the lovely Derbyshire countryside (by motor or on foot, depending on energy!) and to visit places of interest. For details write to Jack and Pat Turner, 5 Canons Close, Wootton, Beds, MK 43 9 DP